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May 9, 2005

Coyote Valley Specific Plan Task Force City of San Jose 801 North First Street San Jose,CA 95110

Re: Potential School Sites

Dear Task Force Members:

As the Morgan Hill Unified School District (the "District") has expressed on numerous occasions, it has grave concerns over the impact this specific plan will have on the District and the students within the District. As it is currently proposed, there is not a clear vision of the educational facilities within Coyote Valley nor has it been demonstrated how those facilities will compliment rather than hinder the remainder of the District. The proposed sites do not meet the state standards and our attempts to work with the City through the school sub-committee to address that issue have been stalled by the disagreement around student generation rates and the future student population. Until we can agree on the true student generation rates, we cannot even begin to discuss changing state standards or district standards.

Perhaps even more concerning is the City's attempt to dictate the different grade configurations on the District for the proposed schools in Coyote Valley, apparently in an effort to retain land for development. Currently, the District operates elementary schools from kindergarten through sixth grade, middle school for seventh and eighth grade and high school from ninth to twelfth grade. The Specific Plan calls for a kindergarten through fifth grade configuration for elementary school, grades sixth through eighth for middle school and grades ninth through twelfth for high school. The District

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cannot be expected to operate a two-tiered educational system. Changing the grade configurations for the proposed schools in Coyote Valley is contrary to the District's practices and policies. The City cannot dictate how the District educates its students.

We urge this Task Force and the City to continue working with the District to resolve these outstanding issues. Any attempts to ignore the District and its concerns will detrimentally impact the District, the City, Coyote Valley and most importantly our students.

Very truly yours,

Kirsten M. Powell

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CC:

Carolyn McKennan Board of Education